

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

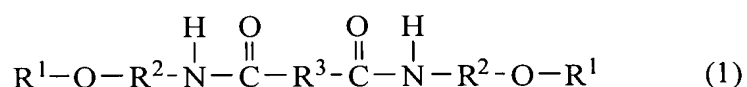
Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A hair cosmetic composition comprising the following components (A) and (B):

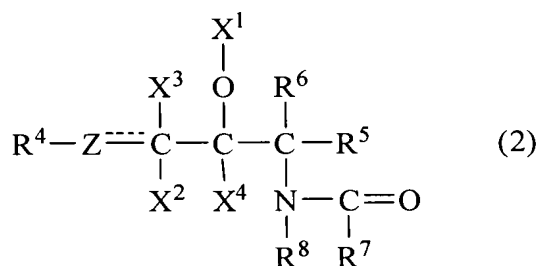
(A): from 0.001 to 10 wt.% of an amphipathic amide lipid, and

(B): from 0.05 to 10 wt.% of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of dialkyl ethers with an alkyl group having from 18 to 22 carbon atoms, ethylene glycol dialkyl ethers with an alkyl group having from 18 to 22 carbon atoms, ethylene glycol monofatty acid esters with an acyl group having from 18 to 22 carbon atoms, ethylene glycol difatty acid esters with an acyl group having from 18 to 22 carbon atoms, fatty acid monoethanolamides with an acyl group having from 18 to 22 carbon atoms, and acylated β -alanines with an acyl group having from 18 to 22 carbon atoms, and mixtures thereof.

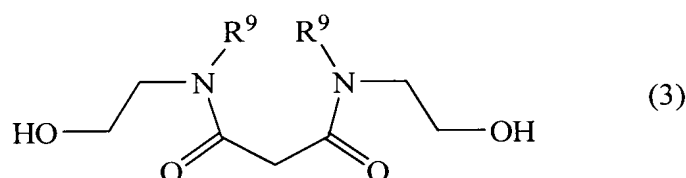
2. (original) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein component (A) is selected from the group consisting of amphipathic amide lipids represented by any one of the following formulas (1) to (4) and mixtures thereof:



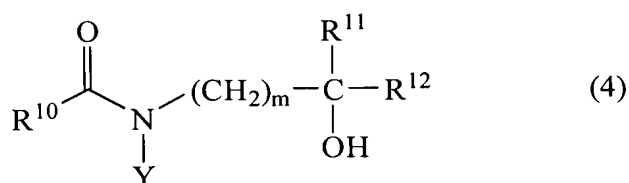
wherein, R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{1-12} hydrocarbon group which may be substituted with hydroxy groups and/or alkoxy groups(s), R^2 represents a linear or branched divalent C_{1-5} hydrocarbon group, and R^3 represents a linear or branched divalent C_{1-22} hydrocarbon group,



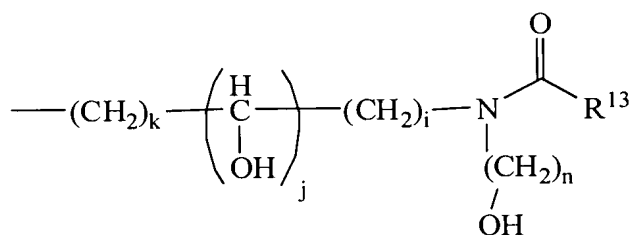
wherein, R^4 represents a linear, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated C_{4-30} hydrocarbon group which may be substituted with hydroxyl, oxo or amino group(s), Z represents a methylene group, a methine group or an oxygen atom, a broken line means the presence or absence of a π bond, X^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an acetyl group or a glyceryl group, or, together with the adjacent oxygen atom, forms an oxo group, X^2 , X^3 and X^4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or an acetoxy group (with the proviso that when Z represents a methine group, one of X^2 and X^3 represents a hydrogen atom and the other does not exist, and when $-\text{O}-\text{X}^1$ represents an oxo group, X^4 does not exist), R^5 and R^6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a hydroxymethyl group or an acetoxymethyl group, R^7 represents a linear, branched or cyclic, and saturated C_{5-35} hydrocarbon group which may be substituted with a hydroxyl or amino group, or the saturated C_{5-35} hydrocarbon group in which a linear, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated C_{8-22} fatty acid which may be substituted with hydroxy group(s), is ester-bonded at the ω -position of the hydrocarbon group, and R^8 represents a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group which may have substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, hydroxyalkoxy groups, alkoxy groups and an acetoxy group, and has from 1 to 8 carbon atoms in total,



wherein, R^9 represents a C_{10-18} alkyl group which may be substituted with hydroxy group(s),



wherein, R^{10} represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{9-31} hydrocarbon group which may be substituted with hydroxy group(s), or a 2-dodecen-1-yl succinic acid residue, m stands for an integer of from 1 to 3, R^{11} and R^{12} each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, Y represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{10-32} hydrocarbon group which may be substituted with hydroxy group(s), or a substituent represented by the following formula:



in which, k , i and n each stands for an integer of from 1 to 3, j stands for 0 or 1, and R^{13} represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{9-31} hydrocarbon group which may be substituted with hydroxy group(s).

3. (original) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 2, wherein component (A) is selected from the group consisting of amphipathic amide lipids represented by either of the formulas (1) and (2), and mixtures thereof.

4. (original) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein component (B) is selected from the group consisting of an ethylene glycol monofatty acid ester, an ethylene

glycol difatty acid ester containing, in the fatty acid composition thereof, from 65 to 90 wt.% of stearic acid, and mixtures thereof.

5. (original) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein component (B) is distearyl ether.

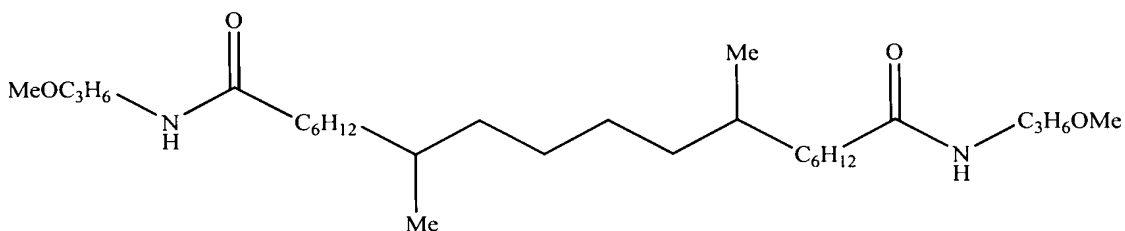
6. (original) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, further comprising a cationic polymer.

7. (currently amended) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 6, wherein the cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of cationic cellulose ~~derivatives~~ and cationic guar gum ~~derivatives~~.

8. (original) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, having a pH of from 1 to 5 at 25°C when diluted to 20 times its weight with water.

9. (withdrawn) A hair protecting method, which comprises the steps of applying a hair cosmetic composition as claimed in Claim 1 to hair and then washing away the composition.

10. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein component (A) is an amphipathic amide lipid is of the formula



and component (B) is an ethylene glycol difatty acid ester having acyl groups having from 18 to 22 carbon atoms.

11. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 10 wherein component (B) is ethylene glycol distearate.

12. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein component (A) is present in a an amount of 0.5 to 1 wt. %.

13. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein component (B) is at least one of an ethylene glycol monofatty acid ester or an ethylene glycol difatty acid ester, comprising 65 to 90 wt. % of fatty acid components as stearic acid.

14. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein component (A) is present in an amount of 0.5 to 1 wt. %.

15. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein a ratio of components (A):(B) ranges from 5:1 to 1:1000.

16. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein a ratio of components (A):(B) ranges from 1:3 to 1:6.

17. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, further comprising a surfactant in an amount of 1 to 30 wt. %.

18. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 6, wherein said cationic polymer is present in an amount of 0.02 to 5 wt. %.

19. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 6, wherein component (A) and said cationic polymer are present in a ratio of 50:1 to 1:100.

20. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 6, wherein component (A) and said cationic polymer are present in a ratio of 3:1 to 1:2.